

Genetics Department
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

March 15, 1954

Dr. H. E. Warmke
Federal Experiment Station
Mayaguez
PUERTO RICO

Dear Dr. Warmke:

This letter is prompted by the paper that appeared very recently in SCIENCE on Indigofera. I have been searching for some considerable time, without success, for a suitable source of the glucoside "indican". This was of course a commercial item of some importance many years ago but is not presently on the market. Your paper on the breeding program for Indigo species suggested that you might be able to tell me where this material could still be obtained, or lacking a source of the isolated material, I hope that you might possibly be able to meet a request for a pound or two of the dried plants from which I could then undertake to isolate the glucoside myself. This presupposes, of course, that the particular species that your group is working on are effective sources of the indican.

The indican is being sought as a substrate for biochemical studies. You may perhaps recall the application of this material as a chromogenic substrate for glucosidase of various bacteria as demonstrated in the course at Pacific Grove. I would be indebted to you for any help that you can give me. A source of from onehalf to perhaps ten grams of the isolated glucoside would meet my most urgent requirements.

My wife, Esther, (Zimmer) sends her best regards.

Sincerely yours,

Joshua Lederberg
Associate Professor of Genetics

JL:mg

see Honor